



SANCTUARY'S "FULL MOON FESTIVAL" WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Sanctuary London: Finding Home. Together.

531 Talbot Street
London, ON N6A 2S5

www.sanctuarylondon.ca

So much 'NEW' happening!

by Darryl Reckman

The summer has flown by in excess of a thousand miles an hour, and so much has happened here in the Sanctuary community, it's hard to know where to start! Here is a quick look at some of what's been going on!

Full Moon Festival

We had so much fun at Sanctuary's Full Moon Festival on Sept. 17th. BBQ chicken dinner, 2 great bands and fireworks to top off the night! A huge thank you goes out to Rick and Jennifer Branderhorst for hosting us at their amazing property. Sanctuary was able to raise over \$16,000 to help keep us going. Perhaps this shall be the first of many???

PS: The moon really was full, as you can see in the photo above!

Sanctuary Homes

You've heard about the Sanctuary Homes before. We continue to be thankful for this unique opportunity to provide a safe and loving place for 8 of our community members to call home.

As you can imagine, it has not been easy. Living together with anyone never is! Just imagine trying to work out what it means to be family together, with a group of people

who may never have had a healthy experience living with others before!



Please continue to pray for the people living in the Sanctuary Homes, and for the community at large as we seek to support them.

Generous Space

In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says "Come to me, *all you who are weary and heavy laden*".

And since the very beginning, Sanctuary has always been a place that desires to be welcoming for **all** people. And we literally mean ALL people, regardless of socio-economic, or religious, or sexual/gender background or any other differences that may be between us. But we have learned

that in order to feel included, sometimes people living in the furthest margins of society require a specific invitation. This is why our vision statement is written to say:

"We are becoming a healthy, welcoming community where people who are poor or excluded are particularly valued."

While much of our focus has been on people who struggle with various forms of homelessness, we have had too many encounters with friends from the LGBTQ+ community to ignore them any longer. These people are important in the Kingdom of God, and in order for them to feel welcomed, it is our responsibility as followers of Christ to send them a specific invitation, an access point to our community.

Therefore, in partnership with New Direction Ministries in Toronto, Sanctuary has launched a group called Generous Space. The purpose of this group is to set apart some time in our week to explore what it may look like to follow Jesus as people and allies of people who are sexual minorities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Interested in participating or learning more about Generous Space?

Please contact Gil Clelland at 519-902-9774 or email gil@sanctuarylondon.ca

Welcome Breezey!

by Darryl Reckman

It's been less than two months since we officially hired her and already Sanctuary has been extremely blessed by the presence of Breezey Allen. Breezey has been working on setting up a new website for our organization, has helped with the launching of our online store called "Touch of Home" (see page 4 for more on that!) and most importantly has built significant relationships with many of our friends here in the community.

Breezey has a huge heart for our people, and has been adamant that she wants to be an asset to our community, not a burden. Therefore, she insists on only being paid what she is able to fundraise on her own. This has proven to be more challenging than she may have



expected, and as a result she continues to work as a nanny to help support herself.

We would love to have Breezey around a little more often. Would you prayerfully consider your role in helping to make this happen? If so, Breezey would love to meet you. Find her contact info in the box on the right and read her story below!

CONTACT BREEZEY!

Breezey would love to hear from you. Please take the opportunity to hear a bit more from her, listen to her heart and allow her to share with you some prayer requests and support raising needs. We all hunger for this kind of encouragement, especially when starting something new.

226-224-1653
breezey@sanctuarylondon.ca

Dish-pit Dance Parties!

by Breezey Allen

It all started with chocolate covered pretzels. Somebody posted on Facebook that Sanctuary London needed baked goods for their Christmas stockings. After offering to make chocolate covered pretzels, I was invited to help with the Christmas dinner. Then a karaoke party, Sunday service and I was hooked. When I attended Sanctuary back in December for the first time, I experienced everything I had ever dreamed a church and community would be. It was love, raw and unapologetic. When I came back for more, I found home. Through all the little things - the hugs from little ones, learning new games with various new friends, dish-pit dance parties - Sanctuary continued to chip away a bigger and bigger home in my heart.

The concept of joining the staff at Sanctuary was thrilling and daunting. This was exactly the kind of job I had always dreamed of, and as a result I was terrified at the prospect of failing. I am not perfect. I have too many flaws to count, and the idea that I could actually be used in such an incredible place was a little out of reach for me. But that is why this is the perfect community for me. There are no facades, I'm not asked to be someone I'm not. I'm allowed to be real, and to be used by God in whatever way He sees fit, leaning on Him in the more difficult times. Psalm 71:3 says 'Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go'. This is my constant prayer and reminder.

'Being intentional' about certain things, be it relationships or fundraising is a lesson I am learning and loving. Relationships have been the easy part. Loving my friends, and spending time with them is both a blessing and joy. Support raising on the other hand is one of the most difficult things I've ever had to do. It's incredibly challenging and humbling to have to approach others, ask for help, and allow them to do so.

I love this community, and I am so excited to see what the next few months will bring!



Apple Crisp!

What better way to celebrate fall than to enjoy making (and eating!) apple crisp together? Here a few of our community members help to peel and slice apples for a Monday drop-in.

Please join us! We would love to have you stop by for a visit at one of our drop-ins.

Mondays 10-2
Wednesdays 2-9

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Sanctuary's current monthly expenses are roughly \$25,000 per month.

Our regularly pledged donations are currently totaled at \$16,500 per month.

66%

Therefore, regularly pledged donations currently cover 66% of our monthly needs.

This is a pretty incredible start! However, if we are able to increase our monthly dedicated support, more of our one-time donations can be put towards expanding the work of Sanctuary.

To achieve this goal, we only need 85 more people to sign up to donate \$100/month. Will you partner with us to make this dream a reality???

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit our website at:
www.sanctuarylondon.ca/getting-involved/donations

Or call/write Darryl at 519-280-8895
darryl@sanctuarylondon.ca

Love and Justice

by Gil Clelland

I have the honour of speaking in many different situations with many different folks. I share at schools, churches, and many gatherings of folks who are interested in justice. I get to share about my work on the streets of London, about my friends who live on or near the street, and try to offer suggestions on how to make a difference. One question keeps arising in these settings: how do I get started?

My answer has shifted over the years. My original answer and one that I still very much agree with is to join an organization (as a volunteer) that is already doing work with folks in impoverished situations. I say "join" because it is with an organization, that you can learn much more readily how to respond well. You can be part of the trust extended by our friends on the street to that organization. Some people want to get started with what they believe will work (hand out care packages, do street evangelism, operate a soup van). While these ideas are well intended, they often do a disservice to the folks we meet regularly. So, I say "join." In the context of joining an organization, you can learn about the depth of oppression of poverty, the lack of trust of the other, and how some responses can be based (often unknowingly) on perpetuating a power differential or dehumanizing boundaries.

Recently though, I have come to a response that comes before partnering with an agency. It is this: find something

you truly love to do and dive in fully. Engage. No holding back. Smell, feel, listen, taste, and be overwhelmed with the joy of it. The "It" you do really doesn't matter (as long as it's not about getting MORE distracted). But the fullness of engagement with "it" is extremely important. Here's why. The more we love, the more we want justice. It's that simple. Now, I'm not talking about getting more distracted with things, games, TV, etc. I'm talking about soaking in LIFE! Digging your hands into the garden of life and smelling the dirt. Swimming in open water and feeling the pleasure of the waves wash over your head. Running through the forested trails and listening to your breath, the wind through the leaves, the rustling play of the squirrels, and the rising gentle hum of the cicada. Holding that hug just a little bit longer - allowing the love of that person to affirm you in wonderful ways. Stopping your walk downtown to see the joyful and life-giving struggle of green life pushing its way through the paved world!

When you begin to soak in LIFE like this, you will want it for everyone. You will seek out Justice in new and life affirming ways. You will see life in others and affirm it. So, GO! Put this paper (or computer screen) down for a few minutes. Take a look around right now. What have you forgotten about? What did you not even see? What are you walking past? Soak it in. Go, LOVE...and Justice will follow.



What will you do differently to start intentionally soaking up LIFE? Whatever it is, just try it and see how LOVE and JUSTICE will follow!

Salt and Light

by Jeremy Jongejan

Each Monday after lunch drop in, a few of us gather around for a time to study scripture. We could still smell the bleach lingering in the air from cleaning the tables from such shared together only a few hours before. The sound of one of our friends continuing to play the piano shimmered through the walls separating us from the adjacent room.

Some are regulars, some are there for their first time, some come and go during the course of our hour together.

Today our conversation was centered around Matthew 5, more specifically, the part where Jesus talks about 'salt and light'. I am not sure about you, but the way I understood this was that our saltiness was to show that we are different, almost like we could interchange the word 'salty' with 'spicy'. Gil explained that in the time this was written, salt was not primarily used for flavour, but for preserving and cleaning. One of the

examples he used was that after a baby was born, salt was rubbed on the **child's** skin to clean its body before it was swaddled up. The image that really had a profound impact on me was that salt was also used to clean wounds. It was placed on a wound which would draw out the harmful organisms which could cause infection.

As a group we concluded that we are the 'salt' which exposes or draws out things that are evil and destructive in our world. This then moves us to ask: "Where are the injustices happening in the world today, that we as Christians need to address and **challenge?**"

This caused a large wave of introspection that for me, continues to last to this day. Now I must continually look at my own life and say: 'Am I actually living out the **gospel?**'

Many times the biblical narrative is much bigger than we think or than we have been taught.

Please join us Mondays in the atrium at Talbot Street Church from 2 - 3pm!



A Special Sunday Night Meal Together

This fall gift basket is just one of the many different gift baskets and other amazing home-made treats and home décor items available on our online store!



Touch of Home by Sanctuary London

Sanctuary's new online gift shop... We invite you to be part of a beautiful picture of people coming together to fight against the injustices of poverty in our city.

So often the members of our Sanctuary community are told they have nothing good to offer Society. Many of the items in the Touch of Home store are hand crafted by these very people. This gives them the gift of dignity, self-worth, and a sense of accomplishment. For many of these people being involved in a loving community such as Sanctuary also gives them a place to call home.

Our goal at Touch of Home is for Sanctuary to offer just that to those affected by poverty in London and to take the fruit of that beautiful gift and sell handmade, local, Canadian products which help to make your house feel more like home.

That is the beautiful picture that you can now be a part of.

To check out the Touch of Home store, please visit:

<https://squareup.com/store/touchofhome-sanctuarylondon>

LHBA PARADE OF RENOVATIONS

A HUGE thank you goes out to the London Home Builders Association for picking Sanctuary London as the beneficiary for their 26th annual Parade of Renovations!

October 2nd was a great day, and we had so much fun meeting and greeting people at each of the houses.

Our community is deeply blessed and encouraged. Thank you so much!